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REVIEW

New Jersey Ferns and Fern-Allies by James D. Montgomery and David E. Fairbrothers. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. ISBN 0-8135-1817-2, Cloth $45.00. 292 pp.

This is an excellent and comprehensive treatment of the 83 species plus 32 hybrid pteridiophytes found in New Jersey. The authors have written a very useful manual. The descriptions are accurate, brief, and clearly written. The keys are carefully crafted to focus on distinctions to fertile specimens and to vegetative specimens. The detailed illustrations of whole fronds and enlargements of diagnostic features, prepared by Kathleen L. John-Alder, are excellent. The treatments include comments on taxonomic status, habitat, chromosome counts, habit of growth, endangered species status, and distribution maps. The size of dot varies, with larger dots indicating older collections, allowing the reader to infer spread or depletion of a species. Access to the book is facilitated with illustrations of technical terminology, with discussions of the biology of hybridization, and with an explanation of the physiographic regions and habitats of New Jersey. The bibliography is extensive, providing ample means to consult the literature. Interestingly, the ferners who collected and investigated ferns in New Jersey over the last 250 years include many eminent botanists, including Bartram, Kalm, Michaux, Pursh, Barton, Nuttall, Torrey, Britton, and Stone. This manual is useful to amateur and expert alike. — JAMES H. PECK, Department of Biology, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR 72204.